



News  
Literacy  
Project

# A future founded on facts

“News literacy is not only a civil right, **it is a human right.**  
Our democracy can’t survive if Americans are unable to distinguish  
facts, evidence and science from conspiracy, bluster and bombast.”

—**Patricia Hunt**, social studies teacher, Wakefield High School, Arlington, Va.

A photograph of Lester Holt, anchor of NBC Nightly News, speaking. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a purple tie. He has glasses and is looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred interior with white architectural details.

### What is News Literacy?

The ability to determine the credibility of news and other content, to identify different types of information, and to use the standards of authoritative, fact-based journalism to determine what to trust, share and act on.

Being news-literate also means recognizing the critical role of the First Amendment and a free press in a democracy and interacting with news and other information in ways that promote engaged participation in civic life.

**“The truth and facts are under relentless attack. An informed and aware viewer or reader can be our most important ally in our pursuit of the truth.”**

— Lester Holt, anchor of *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt* and *Dateline NBC*

## Our Mission

The News Literacy Project, a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, provides programs and resources for educators and the public to teach, learn and share the abilities needed to be smart, active consumers of news and information and equal and engaged participants in a democracy.

## Our Vision

News literacy is embedded in the American education experience, and people of all ages and backgrounds know how to identify credible news and other information, empowering them to have an equal opportunity to participate in the civic life of their communities and the country.



# The Challenge

Today's information landscape is the most complex in human history, and the need for news literacy has never been greater.

In 2019, a [Stanford History Education Group](#) study — a follow-up to 2016 research — concluded that nearly all high school students surveyed did not consider the validity of a source, and over half could not correctly rate the strength of evidence. A [2019 Pew Research Center study](#) found that only a minority of adults could correctly differentiate between fact and opinion.

## Fully 96%

of high school students failed to challenge the credibility of an unreliable source.

(Stanford study)

## Over 50%

of high school students incorrectly classified evidence as “strong.”

(Stanford study)

## Only 26%

of adults correctly classified all five factual statements presented to them.

(Pew study)

## Only 35%

of adults correctly classified all five opinion statements presented to them.

(Pew study)

**This lack of news literacy is a threat to democracy.**

A free society cannot function without a well-informed public and a vigorous and independent free press.

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# The Solution

Education is the most effective approach to combat the spread of misinformation. NLP is the nation's leading provider of news literacy education, and our efforts to fight misinformation reach a global audience. Our free resources, tools and easy-to-adopt tips help people of all ages become more news-literate.

We connect with young people as they are developing their information consumption and creation habits, giving today's students (who are tomorrow's voters and decision-makers) the tools to sort fact from fiction and discern fact-based, credible information.

In addition, amid strong and growing demand from the public, NLP offers its expertise, educational material and programs to people of all ages.

## For Educators

Our free [Checkology® virtual classroom](#) empowers educators to teach middle and high school students how to identify credible information, seek out reliable sources, and know what to trust, what to dismiss and what to debunk. It also gives them an appreciation of the importance of the First Amendment and a free press. This browser-based e-learning platform is ideal for distance learning or homeschool settings.

### NLP also offers...

- [The Sift®](#) is a free newsletter — delivered weekly during the school year — that explores timely examples of misinformation, addresses media and press freedom topics and discusses social media trends and issues. It includes discussion prompts and activities for the classroom.
- NLP's education team provides customized [in-person](#) and [web-based professional development](#), training and support focusing on key news literacy topics. The team also can deliver keynotes on a variety of news literacy-related topics.
- [NewsLitCamp®](#) gives educators the opportunity to connect with journalists in their communities for a full day of professional development. It features an introduction to news literacy, including journalism standards and practices. Educators also gain tools and materials to bring back to their classrooms.
- The [educator resource library](#) on NLP's website includes free lesson plans, classroom activities, posters and infographics, quizzes, training materials and videos. (Coming in September)
- In January 2021, NLP is launching the [news literacy educator network](#) to provide educators the opportunity to learn best practices from others in the field and to access exclusive resources, supports and incentives.

## Our Goal

By 2022, we will build a community of 20,000 educators who, using our programs and resources, will teach news literacy skills to 3 million middle and high school students each year. We will also lead efforts to increase public awareness of news literacy and to equip people of all ages with the ability to discern fact from fiction.



### Checkology Metrics for FY21

During the 2019-2020 school year, after completing their Checkology lessons:



**Nearly 9 in 10** students could correctly identify the five freedoms protected by the First Amendment.



**Two-thirds** of students could correctly identify the traits of quality journalism.



**More than 2x** the number of students could demonstrate an understanding of the watchdog role of the press.



**More than 4 in 5** students said in a survey they intend to increase their civic participation.

## NATIONAL NEWS LITERACY WEEK

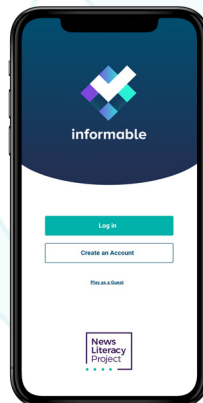
PRESENTED BY:  
The E.W. Scripps Company

### National News Literacy Week

In January 2020, we launched the first National News Literacy Week in partnership with The E.W. Scripps Company. This annual event seeks to underscore the vital role of news literacy in a democracy and provides audiences with the knowledge and tools to become more news-literate.

## For Everyone

- We have customized a version of [Checkology](#) for the public.
- Modeled on The Sift newsletter for educators, [Get Smart About News](#) is our free newsletter designed for the general public. It explores timely examples of misinformation, addresses media and press freedom topics and discusses social media trends and issues.
- [Informable®](#), our free mobile app, helps people of all ages practice four distinct news literacy skills using real-world examples in a game-like format.
- [Is that a fact?](#), our new podcast, builds and improves listeners' news literacy skills through informative conversations with experts working to combat misinformation.
- The [For Everyone](#) section of our website offers free tools, tips, quizzes and shareable graphics for strengthening news literacy skills.
- [Free webinars](#) help the public apply news literacy skills to current events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Staff members are available for [keynotes, speeches and presentations](#) tailored to audience needs.



## Global Education

We recognize that the demand for news literacy education is global. While we are primarily committed to meeting this challenge in the United States, [we are also working to confront the issue internationally](#). Our targeted efforts include:

- Sharing free resources, such as [Give Facts a Fighting Chance: A Global Playbook for Teaching News Literacy](#), a comprehensive guide available to organizations around the world to develop and expand news literacy programs.
- Speaking at gatherings seeking solutions to the misinformation crisis.
- Consulting or partnering with like-minded organizations combating the misinformation challenge in their countries.
- Licensing and assisting in the adaptation of digital assets in local markets.





Give  
facts a  
fighting  
chance.

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Follow us at @NewsLitProject

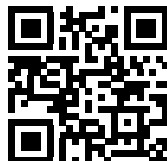


## Learn more

Founded in 2008, the News Literacy Project (NLP) is endorsed by dozens of leading news organizations and supported by funders of journalism, civics and education programs. All agree: News literacy is an essential life skill.

For more information, visit our website at [newslit.org](https://newslit.org) or contact us at [info@newslit.org](mailto:info@newslit.org).

Want more? Subscribe to our newsletters at [newslit.org/subscribe](https://newslit.org/subscribe) and support our work at [newslit.org/donate](https://newslit.org/donate).



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